



## City Of Raleigh

NORTH CAROLINA

Fall 2014

Subject: Keeping Yard Waste Off City Streets and Out of Storm Drains and Streams

Raleigh citizens and City operations need help from you and your fellow lawn care and landscape professionals to keep grass clippings and leaves off our streets and out of our streams. Left in the street, grass clippings and leaves not only are an eyesore and a hazard to cyclists and motorists, they damage our creeks and lakes, clog storm drains, cause flooding, and increase maintenance costs. They also can lead to citations and fines.

Street runoff of rainwater washes grass clippings, leaves, and other debris into storm drains and neighborhood stormwater conveyance systems. This material not only clogs up the system, it ends up in our creeks and lakes where it decays, using up oxygen and releasing nitrogen and phosphorus – fertilizers that feed algal blooms and can kill fish and other aquatic life. For these and other reasons, [City code](#) prohibits leaving your yard waste in the street, and City inspectors can [issue citations and fines](#) to residents and contractors who do not comply.

There are simple ways to maintain attractive landscapes without casting yard waste into the street:

- ✓ Leave grass clippings on the lawn (they are fertilizer)
- ✓ Direct mowers to cast clippings away from pavements when possible
- ✓ Sweep or blow clippings from pavements back onto the lawn
- ✓ Mix grass clippings with leaves and soil to make compost, a soil conditioner
- ✓ [Properly prepare](#) leaves and other yard waste for curbside pickup by the City

To have this...



You don't have to do this...



We appreciate your help keeping Raleigh's creeks and lakes clean and our stormwater system flowing. It takes the whole community – citizens, businesses, and government – working together to make the difference! If you'd like more information, please call the City of Raleigh Stormwater Management Division at 919-996-3940.